

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

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DRAFTED BY P:PMARTINEZ:RR

APPROVED BY P:PMARTINEZ

S/S-WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 269640

TOPOL 23, FOR UNDERSECRETARY SISSCO

FOL REPEAT BAGHDAD 859 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ISLAMABAD
MOSCOW NEW DELHI TEHRAN DEC 07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 859

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, IN

SUBJECT: IRAQI-INDIAN RELATIONS

REF: BAGHDAD 820

1. INDIAN AIR CHIEF OF STAFF MARSHALL O. P. MEHRA DEPARTED
BAGHDAD DEC 2 AFTER DISAPPOINTING 6 DAY VISIT. HIGHEST GOI
OFFICIALS, INCLUDING TOP MILITARY OFFICERS, WERE ENGROSSED
IN VISITS OF FRENCH PM CHIRAC AND SOVIET CHIEF OF STAFF AND
DEPUTY MINDEF GENERAL KULIKOV. AS RESULT MARSHALL MEHRA
WAS NOT RECEIVED BY RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN NOR
EVEN BY CHIEF OF STAFF SHANSHAL. FURTHERMORE, WHEN HE
VISITED IRAQI MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, IRAQIS MADE EXCUSES
FOR NOT SHOWING LATEST SOVIET EQUIPMENT SUCH AS MIG-23S.
TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY, MEHRA WAS SEEN OFF AT AIRPORT
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ONLY BY DEPUTY COMMANDER OF IRAQI AIR FORCE.

2. ACCORDING TO INDIAN EMBOFF NARAIN, MARSHALL MEHRA PROTESTED STRONGLY TO AMBASSADOR BHANDARI AND TRIED TO CUT VISIT SHORT. HE WAS DISSUADED FROM DOING SO BY AMBASSADOR WHO SAID HE WOULD MAKE GENERAL'S FEELINGS KNOWN TO HIGHEST IRAQI LEVELS.

3. AMBASSADOR BHANDARI, WHO ARRIVED NOVEMBER 15, HAS NOT YET PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS BECAUSE OF ILLNESS OF PRESIDENT AL-BAKR. ACCORDING TO NARAIN, BHANDARI IS INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT BECAUSE ONE OF HIS TASKS IS TO PREPARE VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER GHANDI FOR MARCH OR APRIL. LOWRIE

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